Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14228 051218Z

43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 AEC-11 OIC-04

DRC-01 DODE-00 /161 W
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R 051202Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6123
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14228

VIENNA FOR MBFR, GENEVA FOR CSCE

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, XG, UK, WEU
SUBJECT: FCO COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE

1. WE CALLED ON MCLAREN, DEPUTY HEAD OF WESTERN ORGANI-
ZATIONS DEPT., FCO, ON DECEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS JOBERT
SPEECH IN WEU AND OTHER ASPECTS EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY.
HE PROVIDED US WITH AT COPY OF HMG PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS
SUBJECT WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH. GENERAL TONE
OF POLICY GUIDANCE IS THAT JOBERT PERFORMED VALUABLE
SERVICE IN RAISING ISSUE, WITH HMG HAVING "NO DOUBT THAT
EUROPEANS SHOULD DO MORE FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE, ADAPTING
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PAGE 02 LONDON 14228 051218Z

OLD INSTITUTIONS OR DEVISING NEW ONES FOR THE PURPOSE,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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AND THAT THIS WILL SERVE THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE."

2. MCLAREN SAID UK CONTINUES TO SEE EUROPEAN DEFENSE IN THREE FRAMEWORKS. FIRST, MOST FUNDAMENTAL AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING IS NATO. HMG BELIEVES THAT CONTINUATION OF NATO IS VITAL TO EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THAT ALL SECURITY ACTIVITIES MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ALLIANCE. SECOND FRAMEWORK IS THE EUROGROUP WHICH INCLUDES MOST EUROPEAN NATIONS AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INTERESTS OF FLANKS. EUROGROUP HAS PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FORUM. HMG WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT AND HOPES THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED IN INFORMAL WAY. HMG WILL RESIST CREATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OR OTHER SYMBOLS OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION BECAUSE SUCH MOVES WOULD ONLY PUSH FRENCH FARTHER FROM EUROGROUP. FINALLY, HMG BELIEVES THAT MEMBERS OF EC SHOULD HAVE SOME MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION ON DEFENSE ISSUES. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH WEU, WHICH IS BASED ON VERY STRONG TREATY, OR ALTERNATIVELY ON SOME MECHANISM LIKE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHICH CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT SIMILAR FUNCTION IN POLI-TICAL AREA.

3. HMG DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT REAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE CO-OPERATION WILL PROCEED PAST THE STAGE OF TALK FOR FOR-SEEABLE FUTURE. MCLARCTS EUROPEAN PRIME MINISTERS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN BILATERAL MEETINGS, BUT NO COM-MUNITY-WIDE DEBATE WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE UNLESS SOME UNEXPECTED, SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, E.G., A SIGNIFICANT UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE, TAKES PLACE. SUCH AN EVENT COULD SPUR MOVEMENT TOWARD REAL COOPERATION. HMG SETS NO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS LIKELY, HOWEVER, AND CONTINUES TO BASE ITS DEFENSE POLICY ON THE ALLIANCE.

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EO Systematic Review
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To: STATE
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